

11/15/78

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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2340

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 10-14 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 AID-05 PA-01 ICA-11 /074 W

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R 151212Z NOV 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7625
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 3945

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUN, UY, AR, FR
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS. RECENT VISIT TO POLITICAL DETAINEE MIGUEL
ANGEL ESTRELLA

REF: 77 MONTEVIDEO 5866 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FRENCH INDUSTRIALIST YVES HAGUENAUER ON
NOVEMBER 9 CONCLUDED A 12-DAY VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO ON BEHALF OF
POLITICAL DETAINEE MIGUEL ANGEL ESTRELLA, A WORLD-RENOUNDED
ARGENTINE CONCERT PIANIST, ESTRELLA WAS ARRESTED IN DECEMBER
1977 FOR ALLEGED ACTIVITIES HERE ON BEHALF OF THE ARGENTINE
MONONERO TERRORIST MOVEMENT. PERMISSION FOR HAGUENAUER TO MEET
ESTRELLA CAME AS RESULT OF FONOFF INTERVENTION WITH GOU MILI-
TARY LEADERS. THE PRISON VISIT WAS CONDUCTED UNDER ROUTINELY
TIGHT SECURITY RESTRICTIONS. ESTRELLA CONTINUED TO INSIST ON
HIS INNOCENCE AND STATED THAT HIS HEALTH IS SATISFACTORY.
ULTIMATE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE VISIT WILL DEPEND ON HAGUENAUER'S
SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS: IF HE WERE TO PUBLICLY ATTACK THE GOU,
(WHICH HE INDICATES HE WILL NOT DO), THIS COULD PREJUDICE THE
SUCCESS OF ANY SUBSEQUENT VISITS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON 9 NOVEMBER, FRENCH INDUSTRIALIST YVES HAGUENAUER AND
HIS WIFE CONCLUDED A PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL 12-DAY VISIT TO
MONTEVIDEO ON BEHALF OF POLITICAL DETAINEE MIGUEL ANGEL ESTRELLA.
ESTRELLA, A WORLD-RENOUNDED ARGENTINE CONCERT PIANIST, WAS
IMPRISONED IN URUGUAY LAST DECEMBER FOR INVOLVEMENT WITH A
MONONERO TERRORIST UNIT USING MONTEVIDEO AS A PLANNING BASE
(REFTEL). THE PURPOSE OF HAGUENAUER'S TRIP WAS TO VISIT
ESTRELLA IN PRISON AND TO URGE GOU OFFICIALS TO DEAL LENIENTLY
WITH HIS CASE, PERHAPS TO THE POINT OF ALLOWING HIM TO LEAVE
THE COUNTRY. WIDESPREAD NOTORIETY IN EUROPE CONCERNING
ESTRELLA'S ARREST LED TO THE FORMATION OF SEVERAL "FREE MIGUEL
ESTRELLA" GROUPS, NUMBERING AS MEMBERS MANY PROMINENT PERSONS
FROM THE ARTISITC/CULTURAL WORLD. ALTHOUGH HAGUENAUER IS
ACTIVE IN SUCH GROUPS, HIS VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO WAS CHARACTERIZED
AS PERSONAL FOR THE MOST PART, BASED ON A LONGSTANDING FRIEND-
SHIP WITH ESTRELLA.

3. HAGUENAUER'S VISIT WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THE PERIOD
30 OCTOBER - 4 NOVEMBER. HOWEVER, WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF
ARRIVAL, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT PERMISSION TO VISIT ESTRELLA
AT LIBERTAD PRISON COULD NOT BE OBTAINED WITHIN THAT PERIOD.
DEPARTURE WAS DELAYED ON THE URGING OF FON OFF FOREIGN POLICY
DIRECTOR CARLOS GIAMBRUNO, HAGUENAUER'S PRINCIPAL GOU CONTACT.
WITH THE BACKING OF FONMIN FOLLE MARTINEZ, GIAMBRUNO MADE THE
ROUNDS OF GOU MILITARY LEADERS, ARGUING IN FAVOR OF THE
PRISON VISIT ON THE GROUNDS OF (A) HAGUENAUER'S APOLI-
TICAL RECORD; (B) THE NOTORIETY OF THE ESTRELLA CASE IN EUROPE;
AND (C) THE HIGH POLITICAL COST OF STONEWALLING.
PERMISSION FOR A VISIT BY HAGUENAUER (BUT NOT
HIS WIFE) FINALLY WAS GIVEN AND ON 8 NOVEMBER HE TRAVELLED TO
LIBERTAD PRISON TO SEE ESTRELLA, ACCOMPANIED BY FONOFF
HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER CARRESSE.

4. AT LIBERTAD, HAGUENAUER AND ESTRELLA WERE ACCORDED ROU-
TINE PRISON-VIST TREATMENT: BEING SEATED ON OPPOSITE SIDES
OF A GLASS PANEL AND CONVERSING BY TELEPHONE, WITH PRISON
GUARDS IN ATTENDANCE. THE FRENCH CONSUL ACTED AS INTERPRETER
BECAUSE AUTHORITIES ROUTINELY INSIST THAT ALL CONVERSATIONS
WITH PRISONERS TAKE PLACE IN SPANISH. REPORTEDLY, ESTRELLA
VIGOROUSLY PROTESTED HIS INNOCENCE. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE
WAS IN GOOD HEALTH, AN ASSERTION VICH REPORTEDLY WAS CONFIRMED
BY HIS APPEARANCE AND MANNER. (THIS COINCIDES WITH REPORTS
FROM OTHERS WHO ALSO HAVE VISITED ESTRELLA.) HE CONFIRMED THAT
HE HAD BEEN GIVEN A MODEL KEYBOARD ON WHICH TO PRACTICE PIANO
AND WAS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A PRISON PROJECT TO PIPE CLASSICAL
MUSIC INTO THE CELLS.

[Handwritten signature]

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full
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SECTION 2 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 3945

5. HAGUENAUER REPORTEDLY CAME AWAY FROM HIS PRISON VISIT WITH A MORE BALANCED VIEW, AT LEAST OF THE CONDITIONS OF ESTRELLA'S DETENTION IF NOT THE REASONS BEHIND IT. HE STATED THAT, IN KEEPING WITH THE PERSONAL NATURE OF THE VISIT, HE DOES NOT PLAN TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS UPON HIS RETURN TO FRANCE.

6. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THE RESULTS OF HAGUENAUER'S PLEA FOR LENIENCY ARE UNCERTAIN, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE ESTRELLA CASE WILL CONTINUE THROUGH URUGUAY'S MILITARY COURTS AT THE USUAL SNAIL'S PACE. (ALTHOUGH DECEMBER NEWSPAPER REPORTS STATED THAT ESTRELLA HAD BEEN INDICATED FOR "MEMBERSHIP IN A SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION," RECENT INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE PROSECUTOR MAY SETTLE FOR A LESSER CHARGE. OF COURSE, NO VERDICT OR SENTENCE HAS BEEN DECREED YET.)

7. THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE VISIT WILL DEPEND ON HAGUENAUER'S ACTIONS UPON RETURNING TO FRANCE. IF HE DESCRIBES HIS TRIP IN A BALANCED MANNER, THE TRIP WILL, INDEED, HAVE AIDED ESTRELLA AND ALL OTHER URUGUAYAN DETAINEES. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF HE PUBLICLY ATTACKS THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT, GOU HARDLINERS WILL BE REINFORCED WITH MORE AMMUNITION, THR FONOFF'S GIAMBRUNO AND OTHER MODERATES COULD LOSE BOTH PRESTIGE AND CREDIBILITY, AND FUTURE MISSIONS MAY MEET WITH MUCH STIFFER RESISTANCE.

8. FOR EMBASSY PARIS: PLEASE TRANSMIT ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON VISIT, ESPECIALLY ANY PRESS STATEMENTS BY HAGUENAUER OR OTHER PRO-ESTRELLA NOTALBES.

9. FOR EMBASSY LONDON: PLEASE COMMUNICATE SUBSTANCE OF CABLE TO YEHUDI MENUHIN, WHO HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CASE. PEEZULLO

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